

MACo recognizes the current problems encountered by counties in the area of criminal justice and public safety. MACo encourages positive actions to promote and protect the public interest.

1. MACo supports that state, federal, and city/town governments reimburse counties for certain services, such as prisoner care.
2. MACo believes that reimbursement rates should reflect actual cost for services.
3. MACo believes mental evaluations should be conducted in local mental health treatment facilities, when available.
4. MACo supports state and federal funding for jails.
5. MACo supports limiting judicial expenditures in excess of adopted county budgets and opposes judicial orders of additional expenditures above the adopted county budget.
6. MACo supports a partnership between state and local governments for the funding of defined minimum standards of court security in district, county, justice, and municipal courts.
7. MACo supports a partnership between the state and local governments for the funding of the costs to remodel courthouses to accommodate additional District Court Judges and related staff, furniture, fixtures and equipment.
8. MACo believes that the state should continue to support the concept of regional juvenile detention facilities.
9. MACo supports legislation to allocate state funding to regional boards for operation and maintenance of regional juvenile detention facilities.
10. MACo believes that counties should be reimbursed for detention costs from the date of conviction or guilty plea to the date of sentencing, and the state should be responsible for the detention costs.
11. MACo supports full funding of grants to counties under the Montana youth Court Act and funding to recognize the frontier status of Eastern Montana Counties – the distances law enforcement must travel for purposes of providing adequate youth detention services.
12. MACo supports providing to county governing bodies the authority to enact social host ordinances.
13. MACo supports a permanent and stable governance structure and funding for the administration of the public safety communications system in Montana.
14. MACo supports the statewide public safety communications system being based on current federal and state communications standards in which local, tribal, state, and Federal public safety and emergency management representatives can operate autonomously and transition seamlessly, to communicate effectively in an all-hazard emergency mission role.
15. MACo supports the statewide public safety communications system as a voluntary coalition of participating county governments, tribal nations, and state agencies.
16. MACo supports the state's funding of additional resources for the Department of Criminal Investigations and the State Prosecution Bureau.
17. MACo supports additional state funding for deputy county attorney positions that are primarily designed to enforce state law.
18. MACo supports creating zones around emergencies to be drone free and to support financially punishing drone operators whose actions endanger emergency responses in Montana.
19. MACo will work with the Montana Court Administrator's Office to ensure full funding of all district court costs as cited in MCA 3-5-901.
20. MACo will support working with NACo and the federal government to allow public safety telecommunications to work the same schedules as emergency and public safety services.